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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Note verbale dated 13 March 2000 from the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations (Vienna) addressed to the Secretary-General

1. The Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations (Vienna) presents its compliments to the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat and has the honour, on behalf of the Government of the United States of America, to notify the Secretary-General, in accordance with article 5, paragraph 1, of the Agreement on the Rescue of Astronauts, the Return of Astronauts and the Return of Space Objects Launched into Outer Space (the "Agreement"),[1] that component parts of a space object have been discovered on territory of the United States of America. The object found had washed ashore near Corpus Christi, Texas, and appears to be part of the nose cone of a French Ariane rocket. It bears the following identifying lettering on a circular plate at the interior apex of the cone: "AEROSPATIALE, IE/AX, FLUXMETRE NO. SER.966-332, REF. DE DEF. A5-IK871-A-000 BLOCK CONTROLE: 25-.11.96". An investigation concluded that the object poses no hazard to people and property. It is being held temporarily by local authorities in Corpus Christi.

2. In accordance with article 5 of the Agreement, the Government of the United States of America has also notified the Government of France and invited it to identify the object.

3. The Permanent Mission of the United States of America further has the honour to request that this communication be circulated to Member States as an official document of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

Notes

[1] General Assembly resolution 2345 (XXII), annex.